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ROBERTS

STRAWBERRY

NURSERY

LIBRARY
234
Kalamazoo Mich.
Horticulture

Strawberry Growing

SPRING VARIETIES

When you have received your Strawberry plants, they are perishable. If it is a cloudy day plant them immediately. If not, wait until the late hours of the day. Meanwhile, put them in a cool, damp place out of the wind. If it will be 2 or 3 days, dig a small trench, in the shade if possible. Put each bunch side by side in the trench with just the leaves showing. Put damp dirt around the roots. Then place board on top of the leaves. If it rains, see that no water gets around the roots of your berry plants. They will keep a week or more this way, but the quicker they are in the ground in single plants, the better.

Always plant your plants at the late hour of the day if possible. Be sure the roots never get dry, but do not place them in water unless you are going to plant them immediately.

Now pull off all the leaves except 2 or 3 of the brightest. Pull them off with an upward stroke. Never downward. Plants are now in a better condition to start growth.

Planting can be done at any time up to ripening of fruit. Although the earlier the better. Late planting retards the chance of the plant growing as well as growth. When you plant, see that the roots are in damp ground, with dirt at level of crown of plant (no roots showing).

All green part of plant should be above ground. Now pack plant firmly down with the fingers, finish with light covering of loose soil. Water now if ground is too dry.

They should be planted 1 to 1½ feet apart in row, with rows 3½ to 4 feet wide. Dunlap and Robinson, 1¼ to 1½ feet apart. Premiers and Fairfax, 1 to 1¼ feet.

Pick off all blossoms the first year. If you have missed one and a berry is formed, pick it off. This is very essential.

The runners will soon appear, possibly 2 or 3 weeks. Let them grow, keeping them trained very close to the center of the row. As more appear let them spread out slowly so that along about October 1 you will have rows about 2 feet wide of plants. They will root themselves down if there is sufficient rainfall and not molested.

Spraying with a Bordeaux mixture will keep your plants healthy, although it is rarely needed.

Keep the ground well cultivated.

Next spring cultivate as early as possible, continuing until berries start to form. then apply straw or other mulching material between the rows so as one cannot see the ground. This will keep the berries clean. Also irrigate if needed.

EVERBEARING

FIRST YEAR

The Everbearers are planted and grown the same as spring varieties. The difference being the Everbearers will keep on blossoming the entire year. At first keep the blossoms off as they appear but after the plants have been in the ground 75 days or if they were planted say April 1, 90 days, then make a complete job of taking the blossoms off. Also take off the large bud clusters. The small ones down in the crown are all right to leave. These will form your first fruit. From then on leave all blossoms on. The berries will begin to ripen about Aug. 1st and will continue until November 1st or hard freezing weather. Runners on the Everbearers can be allowed to take root so place them where you would like another plant. This also will produce fruit the first year. Do not let too many runners grow on the Everbearers, it takes away from quantity of fruit that you will get. This plant should never go in need of water.

SECOND YEAR

Early in spring cultivate or hoe all places possible. They will then bear a large crop of berries at the same time as other strawberries are getting ripe.

After spring crop they will again bear the following fall after about 4 weeks rest. Although berries of either spring or fall crop will not be as large as 1st year.

See that plants do not go in need of water throughout the year.

PLANTING

If you are able to irrigate, plants can be planted 6 — 10 in. apart in row and rows 2 — 3 ft. apart or any other variation of rows, all according to how many runners are allowed to grow.

No planting is hardly too thick as per example below.

You can expect real results from the Everbearing Strawberry — about 1 quart from 3 plants, planted the first year.

This is my plan for 100 quarts on a 15 x 15 foot plot. Plant 4 rows, 15 feet long, side by side, 10 inches apart. Place plants in the row 10 inches apart. This makes 72 plants in these 4 rows. Now leave 20 inches. Repeat the same 4 rows. Leave again the same, 20 inches. Repeat for 4 times. 15 feet will then be consumed. It will take approximately 300 plants. Any ordinary lawn sprinkler that will cover this amount of ground makes a fine irrigation system.

Roberts STRAWBERRY NURSERY

Growers of Fine Strawberry Plants

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